

**Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
(via Zoom)**

CALL TO ORDER:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Approximately 45 participants were in attendance via Zoom

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the October FHNA General Membership Meeting were approved.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

BGE Gas Pipeline Project

Beth introduced members of the BGE project team to explain the scope of the project.

Julie Ratcliffe - Public Involvement Specialist
Dave Sturm - Superintendent
Ken Gotamski - Project Manager
Northern Pipeline (NPL) is the contractor for the project

The purpose of the project is to upgrade the gas infrastructure to provide more reliable delivery that is less susceptible to leaks and outages and upgrade the legacy pressure systems. The project includes upgrading the gas main in the street and connecting the upgraded main to the individual service lines on the street. BGE guidelines as well as CHAP guidelines must be met. The meters will remain inside the house and the risers and regulators will be installed outside the homes. In order to connect the upgraded main to the individual services, it will require scheduling appointments for home access. BGE will make 3 attempts to contact the resident through door tags and letters. Failure to schedule could result in interruptions of gas service. NPL will provide temporary restoration of roads with asphalt and steel plates. Once a segment is complete, BGE will do a complete restoration by replacing in-kind. This includes landscaping as well. The Paving Coordinator is developing a plan to preserve the pavers on the street as best they can. BGE will re-light the appliances and will red tag appliances that have issues.

“No Parking” signs will be posted. There will be a maintenance of traffic plan and use of flaggers. It is important that residents and visitors obey the “no parking” signs so that the project is not delayed.

BGE equipment must be unobstructed within 3 feet. They may need to remove drywall to ensure there is no obstruction around the meters and regulators. BGE will remove the drywall but won't

rebuild it. Café bistro lights may need to be taken down in order for large vehicles and equipment to get by. BGE will be in contact to coordinate.

BGE is stressing cooperation and patience during this project. If you have questions, call 410-470-7700 or email operationpipeline@bge.com. You can obtain more information by going to BGE.com/operationpipeline or text “Montgomery” to 855-281-8228.

FHNA residents had several questions/comments for the team.

When will the project begin and end?

The project will begin in December and should last 4 to 5 months (including paving)

What streets will be impacted?

BGE shared a map. The streets impacted will include parts of Charles, Light, Montgomery, Churchill, Battery, Henrietta, William and Wheeling.

Two years ago, BGE tore up an alley on Grindall and patching was not done.

For this project, NPL does the temporary patching. After the segment is complete, a paving ticket goes to BGE Paving to complete the final paving. The City owns conduit and BGE owns the gas lines. They are not sure why the paving was not completed on the prior project or if it was City or BGE responsibility.

What do residents do about parking? Parking is already an issue.

Overnight parking should not be an issue. Equipment should be moved to a location off the street overnight.

What do residents do if there is damage to their property as a result of this project?

There is a damage claim form for property damage on the website.

The regulator outside the home is unsightly and may not meet CHAP guidelines. How can they be moved inside the home?

Per BGE guidelines for safety purposes, the regulator must be outside the home.

FHMS Community Investment Tax Credit Opportunity

Garrett Schiche, President of FHMS Board of Directors shared Federal Hill Main Street's mission and vision to be a world class business district. There are 5 pillars that FHMS is focused on.

- Thriving and resilient businesses
- Events that showcase business and community pride
- Clean and safe business district
- Shared identify and vision for business district and collaborative marketing
- Human centered and climate smart infrastructure that creates a sense of shared community

Members of the community have an opportunity to make a donation to FHMS and receive a tax credit equal to 50% of the amount donated. A \$500 donation would result in a \$250 Maryland

tax credit as well as being able to deduct \$500 from your taxable income. It is a win-win situation. You can go to the Federal Hill Main Street website and make a CITC donation.

SHARPkids Program

Sheri Hunt shared that FHNA will be holding a holiday giving campaign to support the SHARPkids program. Residents can make donations from now until December 11th. The donations can be dropped off at the FHMS office from Tuesday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Items needed include household items, toys, family games, winter wear, etc. A link to the Amazon wishlist is also available. Sheri introduced Lil Gurney who runs the SHARPkids program to explain more about the mission.

Lil shared that SHARPkids has been serving Sharp Leadenhall for 12 years through Grace Church. It is a safe space for youth within the community. It supports academic life, character and friendship. Every year they hold a Christmas Store to inspire a heart of generosity and giving. There is a SHARPkids economy where throughout the year the children earn SHARP dollars through attendance, homework, chores, etc. In December, they use their SHARP dollars to “purchase” gifts for family members (sisters, brothers, cousins, mom, dad, etc.). The donations will be part of the Christmas Store for children to choose as gifts for their loved ones. If anyone is interested in volunteering at the Christmas Store, reach out to Lil at lil.gurney@gracecitybaltimore.org.

CHAP Hearing

The Harbor Hill Apartments expansion project was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Zac Blanchard shared that he is looking into putting electric vehicle chargers in the neighborhood. He is only in the initial steps of research. If you have an electric vehicle or want to see chargers in the neighborhood, reach out to Zac.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.